

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-8. Cancelled

9. (Currently amended) A process for the preparation of microbial composition useful for the neutralization of alkaline textile industry waste-waters comprising:

~~(a) isolating the bacterial strains *Bacillus alkalophilus* CBTCC/Micro/8 and *Bacillus sp.* CBTCC/Micro/9 from sewage by a standard method;~~

~~(b)(a) inoculating the bacterial strains *Bacillus alkalophilus* CBTCC/Micro/8 MTCC 5092 and *Bacillus sp.* CBTCC/Micro/9 MTCC 5093 said individual bacterial strains in an Alkaline Bacillus broth medium containing $MgSO_4$;~~

~~(c)(b) growing said individual bacterial strains for 16-24 hrs;~~

~~(d)(c) inoculating said individual bacterial strains grown in step (c)(b) in a modified Tryptone Soya Broth medium, having original pH value about 7.0, said pH value of the medium being adjusted to different pH values ranging between 8.0-11.0, using Tris-HCl buffer and NaOH- Na_2CO_3 buffer or $NaHCO_3$ - Na_2CO_3 buffer under sterile conditions;~~

~~(e)(d) growing said individual bacterial strains obtained from step (d)(c) in modified Tryptone Soya Broth medium for 16-24 hours at different pH values ranging from 8.0-11.0 to select the bacterial strains growing at pH 11.0 and the remaining bacterial strains unable to grow at pH 11.0 being acclimatized at pH 11.0;~~

~~(f)(e) inoculating said selected acclimatized individual bacterial strains from step (e)(d) in a modified Nutrient Broth medium, having pH values about pH 7.0, said pH being adjusted to different pH values ranging from 9.0-11.0 using NaOH- Na_2CO_3 buffer or $NaHCO_3$ - Na_2CO_3 buffer under sterile conditions;~~

~~(g)(f) adding a dye, phenol red indicator and optionally 1% carbohydrate to said inoculated medium of individual bacterial strains obtained from step (f) to observe the change in colour for acid production and to identify the acid producing strains at pH 9.0-11.0;~~

~~(h)(g) growing said inoculated bacterial strains obtained from step (g) for a period of at least 2 days and thereafter observing acid production by the change in colour of phenol red in~~

said medium from red to orange, orange to yellow and by measuring the decrease in pH of said medium;

(~~g~~)(h) selecting the acid producing bacterial strains at pH 11.0;

(~~g~~)(i) mixing said selected bacterial strains from step (~~g~~)(h) to obtain mixed bacterial suspension;

(~~k~~)(j) centrifuging the mixed suspension of bacterial strains obtained from step (~~g~~)(i) at 8,000-12,000 rpm to obtain pellet;

(~~h~~)(k) washing the obtained pellet from step (~~k~~)(j) by suspending the pellet in triple distilled water and re-centrifuging at 8,000-12,000 rpm; and

(~~m~~)(l) collecting the pellet from step (~~h~~)(k) and lyophilizing the obtained pellet to store at 1 to 4° C for longer use.

10-12. Cancelled